

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 ACDA-19 NIC-01

RSR-01 /171 W

----- 129670

R 031230Z AUG 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3529

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 2322

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG

SUBJECT: ZAYYAT COMES IN FROM THE COLD

REF: CAIRO 1929

1. REFTEL NOTED REPORT THAT AT THE END OF JUNE ZAYYAT WAS UNDER SHADOW IN HIS RELATIONS WITH SADAT AS RESULT OF HIS MALADROIT HANDLING OF PALESTINIAN STATE PROPOSAL IN UN EARLIER THAT MONTH. AT THAT TIME THERE WERE OTHER INDICATIONS OF ESTRANGEMENT BETWEEN EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER, SUCH AS FACT THAT ZAYYAT WAS UNABLE TO SEE SADAT FOR MORE THAN TWO WEEKS FOLLOWING
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HIS RETURN FROM FIRST SESSION OF UNSC ME DEBATE.

2. SEVERAL RECENT DEVELOPMENTS INDICATE THAT ZAYYAT HAS RETURNED TO SADAT'S GOOD GRACES. JULY 26 PRESS, FOR EXAMPLE, PUBLISHED TEXT OF CABLE FROM SADAT TO ZAYYAT IN NEW YORK, GIVING "FULL SUPPORT" TO FOREIGN MINISTER IN HIS EFFORTS TO "DEFEND ARAB RIGHTS, TO ASSERT OUR DETERMINATION TO REACH OUR SACRED GOAL OF LIBERATING ENTIRE ARAB LAND, AND TO GUARANTEE THE RIGHTS AND INTERESTS OF THE STRUGGLING ARAB PEOPLES." THIS SOMEWHAT EFFUSIVE (AND NORMALLY UNNECESSARY) MESSAGE OF SUPPORT HAS BEEN FOLLOWED BY PRESS REPORT THAT ZAYYAT MET WITH SADAT ON AUGUST 2 "A FEW HOURS" AFTER HIS RETURN FROM UN. REPORT NOTED THAT SADAT EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR ZAYYAT'S EFFORTS DURING UNSC DEBATE.

3. COMMENT: SADAT IS APPARENTLY MAKING EFFORT TO KILL RUMORS THAT ZAYYAT IS ON HIS WAY OUT OF OFFICE BECAUSE OF EGYPTIAN DISSATISFACTION OVER RESULTS OF UNSC MEETINGS. WHILE IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO CLAIM THAT UNSC MEETINGS RESULTED IN A VICTORY FOR EGYPT, SADAT IS DOING HIS BEST TO INTERPRET IT AS A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT FOR EGYPTIAN DIPLOMACY. HE HOPES TO GET MAXIMUM MILEAGE FROM FACT THAT US AND ISRAEL WERE ISOLATED FROM REST OF WORLD. IT WOULD BE INCONSISTANT WITH THESE EFFORTS TO REMOVE ZAYYAT FROM OFFICE AT THIS TIME. SADAT MAY ALSO BELIEVE THAT HE WILL NEED ZAYYAT'S TECHNICAL DIPLOMATIC SKILLS AT THE UPCOMING NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IN ALGIERS AND AT THE UNGA. BARRING UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENTS, IT APPEARS THAT ZAYYAT IS IN NO IMMEDIATE DANGER OF BEING REMOVED FROM OFFICE.

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